

REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action the five pending claims of the application were rejected as being obvious in view of a hypothetical combination of the disclosures of the cited Maissel, Dedrick, Mori, and Horn references. In response, independent Claims 46 and 48 have been amended and are now believed to be patentably distinct over those cited references for the reasons set forth below.

In particular, amended independent Claim 46 clearly requires that a receiving apparatus of the present invention is arranged to store a received external user profile to search a preferred program on the basis of the stored external user profile, and to control storing of the external user profile in a storing unit so as to delete automatically the stored external user profile in accordance with a predetermined time period elapsing from a time when the external user profile was stored in the storing unit, if the searched preferred program is not selected by a user, and so as to update the stored external user profile to store the updated external user profile in the storing unit, if the searched preferred program is selected by the user.

The above characterized features of the present invention as set forth in Claim 46 are not disclosed in any of the cited references. As stated in the Office Action, the reference of Maissel "is silent about a control unit for automatically deleting the external user profile in accordance with a predetermined time period elapsing from a time when the external user profile was stored in said storing unit". That reference, therefore, does not disclose or suggest a relationship between storing control (deletion and updating) of the external user profile and selection of the preferred program searched based on the external user profile, as clearly

required in amended independent Claim 46. Furthermore, it is noted that the cited Dedrick reference discloses merely to eject a card from a client system 12 to be pocketed by a consumer, and to delete un-encrypted profile information in the volatile memory (column 7 lines 62-65). Dedrick does not, however, disclose or suggest the relationship between storing control of the external user profile and selection of the preferred program searched based on the external user profile, as required in amended independent Claim 46. Also, the Mori reference discloses automatically deleting a recorded program which has exceeded a delete-protect time, merely to secure sufficient space for program recording ([0021]-[0022]), but Mori also fails to disclose or suggest a relationship between storing control of the external user profile and selection of the preferred program searched based on the external user profile, again as clearly required in amended independent Claim 46.

As for amended independent Claim 48, which is directed to a method related to Claim 46, that claim is believed to be patentably distinct over the cited references for the same reasons set forth above with reference to Claim 46.

In view of the foregoing, since none of the cited references disclose or suggest the control unit functioning together with the operating unit and the profile processing unit as required in amended independent Claims 46 and 48, Applicants solicit the issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees or credit overpayment to
Deposit Account No. 50-3939.

Respectfully submitted,

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